



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2008

**FACT SHEET**

**SANDERS' PLAN WILL THIN 100% OF CITY'S OPEN SPACE BRUSH**

**MAYOR ALSO ADDS CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

In order to ensure that our community is better prepared for future wildfires, Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that he will fully fund the City's brush management program for the first time in the City's history as part of his FY09 budget. As a result of the Mayor's proposal, the City will be able to thin all 1,180 acres of the City's open space brush over the next two years. For more than a decade, the City Council allocated just enough funds to thin 70 acres of brush.

In addition, the Mayor will add six additional Code Compliance Officers in the Fire-Rescue Department to monitor brush and weed abatement on private property. There are currently two officers. The addition of these code enforcement officers satisfies a key recommendation in the Mayor's After-Action Report on the October Wildfires.

Earlier this year, the Mayor announced that he had secured a \$2.36 million Federal government brush management grant after a two-year application process. The City will pair those grant funds with \$3.9 million from the City's General Fund over the next two years to thin the 1,180 acres recommended for bi-annual thinning. As part of the proposal, the Mayor will add 13 full-time employees (FTEs) to the seven FTEs already employed by the Park and Recreation Department for brush management.

**BRUSH MANAGEMENT FUNDING HISTORY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY09-10Total
General Fund	\$391,087	\$1,045,125	\$2,018,469	\$1,871,260	\$3,889,729
FEMA	\$0	\$0	\$1,108,000	\$1,255,209	\$2,363,209
Total	\$391,087	\$1,045,125	\$3,126,469	\$3,126,469	\$6,252,938
Acres Thinned	70	210	590	590	1,180